

SIEGLER (L.F.)

---

*Erysipelas and its treatment.*







# THE MEDICAL WORLD.

*The knowledge that a man can use is the only real knowledge; the only knowledge that has life and growth in it and converts itself into practical power. The rest hangs like dust about the brain, or dries like raindrops off the stones.—FROUDE.*

## Erysipelas and its Treatment.

EDITOR MEDICAL WORLD:—I desire to submit this article to the many readers of THE WORLD for a two fold purpose, viz.:—to express my views concerning its causation and treatment, and to create more interest and study, and therefore, an earnest discussion of this very common disease—which not infrequently baffles the best directed efforts of the physician—often to his utter chargin and mortification.

A failure to successfully treat this disease but adds to the prevailing opinion of the laity that the only safe and effective thing to do is to "pow-wow." Of course you have all no doubt experienced the meddlesome interference of some old, ignorant woman who professed to speedily cure with gesticulating hands and unmeaning guttural, an obstinate case of erysipelas.

In the first place it has been affirmed by some and again denied by others that erysipelas is truly a specific contagious disease but at the present time the evidence of its contagiousness is admitted on all sides.

Dr. Blin, in 1864, in his paper on the propagation of contagion before the Paris academy recorded several important cases. A surgeon at the Laribois hospital, having under his charge two patients affected with erysipelas, was himself taken ill with it. A medical friend visited him and after returning home, where no other cases existed, fell ill. The servant of this gentleman was soon after attacked, and also a relative who came to see him. The latter gave erysipelas to his wife and the members of his family. From this family the disease spread to two sisters of mercy and by them was communicated to a medical man who attended them and from whom it passed to his daughter.

Erysipelas may be transmitted also in other ways; e. g., through contact with articles of apparel that have been in direct\* contact with an affected part. Again the oozing matter from the bulbous erysipelatous surface is infectious and it may be further propagated by the dead or living affected with the disease. From these briefly adduced facts it must be laid down as a fixed law that this disease is due to a certain, thought, as yet, unknown, micro-organism entering the system and by its rapid proliferation and consequent toxic effects manifesting all the inflammatory symptoms of erysipelas.

This specific virus, however, causing, as it does, systemic symptoms and violent inflammation of the skin, is no doubt one of the microocci group; for it has been fully demonstrated by several competent observers that in this disease the lymph spaces of the skin are actually loaded with these organisms. There-

fore, it is only reasonable to suppose that these toxic principle play an important and striking part in the causation of this disease.

As concerns the classing by some of idiopathic and surgical erysipelas as sepearate and distinct forms, it will suffice to say that this view is no longer held by modern observers; indeed, this fallacious hypothesis has been very thoroughly disproved and it is now an indisputable fact that both forms are due to the absorption of a common toxic poison.

The so-called surgical and idiopathic forms are not distinct in their causation, but etiologically identical—the only difference being of course, the occurrence of the one in connection with a wound and the other on an unabrased surface.

Recognizing, then, that the disease is due to a specific virus our treatment must be directed accordingly.

For internal treatment nothing, so far as I know, exceeds in good results the administration of large doses of quinine.

The following combination has given me strikingly good results and I strongly urge its use to the medical profession:

℞ Quiniae Sulph. .... gr. lxiv  
Antikamnia. .... gr. lvi  
Belladonnæ Ext. .... gr. iv  
M. ft. Capsules No. xvj. Sig.—One every four hours.

Of course, a mild cathartic should be at first given to unload the bowels.

Externally I have met with much success with the following local application, thoroughly applied to the affected surface two or three times daily:

℞ Iodol. .... scr. j  
Salol. .... scr. ij  
Glycerine. ....  
Collodion. .... aa. .... oz. j

Mix

Crystalized carbolie acid in the proportion of twenty grains to four drachms each of glycerine and collodion applied in a similar way as the above solution has also given excellent results; indeed either of these mixtures in the manner indicated almost instantly relieves the ever present burning and stinging sensation and limits the further spread of the disease.

The diet should consist of nourishing, easily digested food; e. g., milk, soups, animal broth, eggs, etc. In cases where asthenic symptoms arise free and bold stimulation must be resorted to.

The prevention of erysipelas involves the removal and thorough disinfection of the body and bed clothing of the person affected, and, further, his isolation.

L. FRANK SIEGLER, M. D.  
New Kingston, Penn.



# THE MEDICAL WORLD

Published Weekly by the Medical World Company, 100 N. 3rd St., St. Louis, Mo.

Subscription Price, \$5.00 per Annum in Advance.

Single Copies, 10 Cents.

Entered as Second-Class Matter, May 1, 1879, under Post Office No. 100, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage Paid at St. Louis, Mo.

Acceptance for mailing at Special Rate of Postage provided for in Post Office No. 100, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Postage paid by Medical World Company, St. Louis, Mo.